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ABSTRACT

This resource guide is intended for use by parents, children, and educators to provide information on children's storybooks about the Arab world. The list is arranged alphabetically by author or title with grade level suggestions provided where appropriate. Availability information also is listed. Other educational resources are also listed. The appendix includes contact information for organizations that have additional teaching resources about the Arab world. (EH)

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Children's Storybooks on the Arab World: An Annotated Bibliography.

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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee,
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AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE

CHILDREN'S STORYBOOKS ON THE ARAB WORLD
An Annotated Bibliography

(ADC's Educational Department prepared the following list as a resource guide for parents, children, and educators. **ADC does not sell the works listed.** Ask at your local library or bookstore for help locating the books, or contact the organizations are listed in the appendix.)

Abu Kir and Abu Sir. (Beirut: Librairie du Liban) 32pgs/ hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *A humorous and richly illustrated tale. Two friends learn the value of honesty when their pursuit of fortune leads them abroad.*

Alexander, Sue. **Nadia the Willful**. (NY: Pantheon, 1983) Grades K-4. $5.00 AMEU/Borders* *After Nadia's brother disappears in the desert, her father orders that his name never be spoken again. Through her determined defiance of this order, Nadia keeps her brother's memory alive and changes her father's outlook on death. This story focuses on coping with the loss of a loved one.*

Bahous, Sally. **Sitti and the Cats**. (CO: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1993) Grades 1-5/24pgs/hardcover. AMIDEAST/AWAIR $13.95/AMEU $12.25/AET $10.00/Borders* *In this Palestinian tale, a poor woman is aided by talking cats in her efforts to show a selfish neighbor the importance of friendship and generosity. Notes throughout the book provide a guide to the setting and culture of Palestine's past.*

The Bearded Man. (Beirut: Librarie du Liban) 32pgs/hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *Set in a city of the Arabian Gulf, this is the tale of two friends whose paths diverge. One learns a painful lesson after his arrogance leads him to abandon his companion.*

Burgoyne, Diane T. **Amina and Muhammad's Special Visitor**. (Spring Valley, CA: Middle East Gateway Series, 1982) Grades K-3/58pgs. $9.95 *This story of an urban Saudi Arabian family city illustrates similarities and differences between Saudi and U.S. lifestyles.*

Dutton, Roderic. **Arab Family**. (Minneapolis: Lerner, 1985) Grades K-6/32pgs. $8.95 *This richly illustrated story centers around a farm family living in the village of Khabura in Oman. Its depiction of rural life highlights changes brought about by the discovery of oil.*

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4201 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W., SUITE 300 ☐ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008 ☐ Phone: (202) 244-2990
TELEX: 856419 (ADC WSHDC) ☐ TELEFAX: (202) 244-3196

El-Liwaru, Dr. Saidi J. and Maisha. **The Muslim Family Reader** 2 Vols. $6.99/each. SOUND VISION *A collection of stories to be read within the family. Each story's theme is introduced with a quote from the Quran.*

Five Things to Find. (Singapore: Tamarind Books, 1991) Grades K-3/21pgs. $6.00 AMIDEAST *Set in a traditional Tunisian setting, this richly illustrated story imparts a timeless message about the importance of teamwork. A young girl teaches her siblings the necessity of working together to best utilize individual strengths.*

Hart, George. **Tales from Ancient Egypt**. (Cairo, Egypt: Hoopoe Books, 1994) 48pgs. $6.50 AMIDEAST *This collection consists of seven tales recited in Egypt thousands of years ago. Hart's translated versions are illustrated through contemporary adaptations of ancient Egyptian paintings.*

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliand. **The Day of Ahmed's Secret**. (NY: Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard Books, 1990) Grades 1-5/32pgs/hardcover. AMIDEAST ($13.95)/AWAIR ($16.00)/ AMEU ($14.50)/Borders* *Ahmed carries a secret in his pocket as he spends a day wandering the streets of Cairo. Only at the day's end is the secret revealed. Detailed illustrations provide a glimpse into the lives of the city's people.*

Heide, Florence Parry and Judith Heide Gilliand. **Sami and the Time of Troubles**. (NY: Clarion Books, 1992) 32pgs/hardcover. AMIDEAST ($14.95)/AWAIR ($15.95)/AMEU ($5.50, paper)/Borders* *Ten year old Sami and his family in Beirut confront the harsh realities of a time of war. Their inspiring struggle for survival is beautifully illustrated in watercolor.*

Jacobsen, Peter. **A Family in the Persian Gulf**. (NY: Bookwright Press, 1985) Grades 2-5/32pgs. $9.40 *This portrayal of a family in Bahrain illustrates similarities and differences between the lifestyles of children in Bahrain and the U.S.*

Joha and the Three Merchants. (Beirut: Librarie du Liban) 32pgs/hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *The traditional character of Joha "the fool", outwits three dishonest merchants.*

Johnson-Davies, Denys. Animal Tales from the Arab World. (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1995) 48pgs $6.50 AET $5.00 *These tales were adapted from traditional Arabic fables such as* Kalila wa Dimna. *They relate amusing adventures and mishaps of extraordinary animals.*

Johnson-Davies, Denys. **Folk Tales of Egypt.** (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1993) 48pgs AMIDEAST/$6.50 *These tales were adapted from those traditionally recited by Egyptian story-tellers.*

Johnson-Davies, Denys. **Goha**. (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1993) 48pgs AMIDEAST $6.50/AET $5/00 *A collection of 27 short*

stories revolving around a traditional Arab character known as Goha "the fool". These humorous tales relate Goha's adventures as he outsmarts those he encounters.

Johnson-Davies, Denys. **The Island of Animals.** (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1994) Grades 8+/76pgs. AMIDEAST/$12.95 *This adapted version of a tenth-century Arab tale cleverly addresses the relationship between people and animals. The King of the Djinn hears testimony from men and beasts as he tries to decide whether humankind should dominate the world.*

Johnson-Davies, Denys. **Stories of the Caliphs.** (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1995) Grades 4-7/47 pgs. AMIDEAST ($6.50)/AWAIR ($12.00 with audio cassette) *This collection contains stories of the early caliphs, some of whom were just and fair and others of whom were corrupt.*

Judar and His Two Brothers. (Beirut: Librarie du Liban) 32pgs/hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *Set in Egypt and Morocco, this is the story of an honest, trusting character, Judar. After Judar is twice cheated by his dishonest brothers, a friendly magician comes to his aid.*

Kessler, Christina. **One Night.** (NY: Philomel Books, 1995) 32pgs/hardcover. $15.95 AMIDEAST *A shepherd boy among the Tuareg people of North Africa longs for a blue turban like those worn by the men. To realize this dream, he must first prove his worth to his father. This story provides a glimpse into a rapidly vanishing nomadic lifestyle.*

Khaled and Aida. (Beirut: Librairie du Liban) 32pgs/hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *Set in the Sahara Desert, this story celebrates strength of will and character. Before marrying Khaled, Aida is determined to prove herself his equal.*

The Kingdom of Justice: Stories from the Life of Umar. Grades 4-7/47 pgs. $12.00 with audio cassette. AWAIR *Islamic values, law and justice (equality before the law, the presumption of innocence) are conveyed through seven stories based on historical accounts of Islam's first century.*

The Magical Gourd. (Beirut: Librairie du Liban) 32pgs/ hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *This tale is set in the eastern Syrian desert. It relates an impoverished thornseller's experience with a most unusual gourd.*

The Man Who Never Laughed. (Beirut: Librarie du Liban) 32pgs/ hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *Rather than appreciate his fortune in wealth and love, a young Syrian is overcome with greed for more. Ultimately, this greed leads him to lose all that he has.*

Marston, Elsa. **The Cliffs of Cairo.** (Beaufort and New American Library) For teenagers. *This novel depicts modern-day life in Egypt.*

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Mathews, Mary. **Magid Fasts for Ramadan**. (NY: Clarion Books, 1996) $15.95 AET $11.00 *Islamic practices and beliefs are introduced through this story set in contemporary Egypt during the month of Ramadan. Magid, a young Muslim, disagrees with his family's assertion that he is too young to fast. By secretly fasting, he learns that forgoing food and drink can be a difficult responsibility.*

Murad, Khurram. **The Wise Poet**. Grades 4-7/26pgs. Includes audio cassette. Sound Vision ($8.00)/AWAIR ($12.00) *At-Tufayl, a poet and chief, is in the Kaba when he hears the prayer of a fellow Muslim. His fascination and curiosity leads him to discover that the praying man is actually the Prophet Muhammad.*

Nye, Naomi Shihab. **Sitti's Secrets**. (NY: Four Winds Press, 1994) 32pgs/hardcover. AMIDEAST ($15.00)/AWAIR ($15.95)/AMEU ($14.50)/AET (!0.95)/Borders* *Set in a small West Bank village, this is the story of a young Arab-American girl and her Palestinian grandmother. After meeting for the first time, they transcend differences in age, language, and culture to form a unique friendship. Local traditions and some Arabic words are introduced.*

Profi'et, Cynthia. **Kamal's Quest**. (Sterling Press, 1610 E. County Line Rd., Ridgeland, MS 39157; 601-853-3728) $15.95 + $3.50, shipping and handling. *Kamal, a young camel who has lost his mother, is befriended by kind Arabs in Bahrain. This beautifully illustrated story presents a positive look at Arab society.*

Prince Jamil and Leila the Fair. (Beirut: Librarie du Liban) 32pgs/hardcover. $8.50 AMIDEAST *A king in the mountains of southern Arabia loses his kingdom after insisting on chopping off his wife's hair. His sincere regret allows him to redeem himself and regain his land.*

Stickles, Frances. **The Flag Balloon**. (Washington, DC: American Educational Trust, 1988) Grades 2-6/40 pgs. AET $7.95 (2 for $9.95) *In defiance of soldiers, a young Palestinian girl makes and flies her flag in the Occupied Territories.*

Tahan, Malba. **The Man Who Counted: A Collection of Mathematical Adventures**. (W. W. Norton, 1993) Grades 5-adult/244 pgs. $9.95 AWAIR *34 gracefully told stories, each with a mathematical puzzle to solve, set in the 10th century Islamic world. Depicts Arab and Muslim contributions to the history of mathematics, ("Arabic" numerals and algebra for example).*

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OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Abbas, Jailan. **Festivals of Egypt.** (Cairo: Hoopoe Books, 1995) 48pgs. AMIDEAST $7.50/AET $5.00 *Offers an overview of Islamic, Coptic Christian, and secular festivals celebrated in modern-day Egypt. Attention is given to the historical role these festivals have played in uniting Egyptian society. Easy recipes for festival foods are included.*

Alshalabi, Firyal M. **Ahmed's Alphabet: A Bilingual Story for Arab Students Learning English.** (Rubeian Publishing, 1995) 35 pgs. $16.00 AET $10.00 *Ahmed introduces himself, his family, culture and background. Good also for non-Arab children.*

Haskins, Jim. **Count Your Way Through the Arab World.** (Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books) Grades 2-4. $4.95 *In addition to an introduction to counting in Arabic, this book provides background on Arab countries and societies.*

Muslim World Coloring Books. 4 books, 28 pages each. $3.95 Sound Vision *Drawings depict people, lifestyle, architecture and art.*

Naff, Alexa. **The Arab Americans.** (Chelsea House, 1988) Grades 5-8/110pgs. $12.95 AWAIR *Covers the early immigrants from Syria-Lebanon beginning in the 19th century, the process of assimilation, the post-World War II immigrants from across the Arab world, and the resurgence of ethnic awareness.*

Rodseth, Lars; Sally Howell; and Andrew Shryock. **Arab World Mosaic: A Curriculum Supplement for Elementary Teachers.** (Dearborn, MI: ACCESS, 1994) 209 pgs. $20.00 and $5.00 shipping. *Lesson plans, exercises and stories of the Arab world based on the life experiences of Arab immigrants. Covers the person, family, community, holidays and folktales. Designed to be used with The Day of Ahmed's Secret, Nadia the Willful, Sami and the Time of Troubles, Sitti and the Cats, and Sitti's Secret.*

Shabbas, Audrey; Carol El-Shaieb; and Ahlam Nabulsi. **The Arabs: Activities for the Elementary School Level.** (AWAIR, 1991) Grade 4-7/60 pgs. $16.00 *Hands-on projects and exercises. Cook, weave, macrame, sing, dance, recycle, play games, tell stories.*

Sheen, Dennis. **A Child's Picture Dictionary, English/Arabic.** (NY: Adama Books, 1985) Grades K+/39pgs. $9.95

Soghikian, Juanita W. **Lands, Peoples and Communities of the Middle East.** (Spring Valley, CA: Middle East Gateway Series, 1991) Grades 4-6/80pgs. $12.00 *30 lessons on culture; geography; urban, rural and nomadic life in 19 countries.*

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APPENDIX

American Educational Trust (AET)
1900 18th St. NW
Washington, DC 20009
(800) 368-5788

Americans for Middle East Understanding (AMEU)
475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 570
New York, NY 10115-0241
(212) 870-2053 FAX: (212) 870-2050
AMEU@aol.com

AMIDEAST
1730 M Street
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 776-9600 Fax: (202)822-6563

Arab World and Islamic Resources and School Services (AWAIR)
1865 Euclid Ave., Suite 4
Berkeley, CA 94709
(510) 704-0517 FAX: (510) 704-0741

Clarion Books
215 Park Ave. South
New York, NY 10003
(212) 420-5889 FAX: (212) 420-5855
http://www.hmco.com/trade/

Middle East Gateway Series
16105 E. Carmel Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
(602) 837-7006

Sound Vision
843 W. Van Buren, Suite 411
Chicago, IL 60607
(800) 432-4262

* Borders Bookstore
Dearborn, MI
(313) 271-4441
Offers a 25% discount to educators on the books indicated.

These organizations also have many other excellent teaching resources on the Arab world. Ask for their catalogues.

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